

51st Annual Report
of the
**PACIFIC STATES MARINE
FISHERIES COMMISSION**
FOR THE YEAR 1998

To the Congress of the United States and the Governors and Legislatures of the Five Compacting States, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, and Alaska, by the Commissioners of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission in Compliance with the State Enabling Acts Creating the Commission and Public Laws 232; 766; and 315 of the 80th; 87th; and 91st Congresses of the United States Assenting Thereto.

Respectfully submitted,
PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

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DALE KELLEY

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Washington State Senate	Washington Dept. Fish & Wildlife	Governor's Appointee

Our goal, as stated in the bylaws, is "to promote and support policies and actions directed at the conservation, development and management of fishery resources of mutual concern to member states through a coordinated regional approach to research, monitoring and utilization".

51ST ANNUAL REPORT - 1998

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND ACTIONS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) helps the fishermen and resource agencies of our five compacting states address the management of our Pacific ocean living marine resources. In 1998, PSMFC remained active as custodian and coordinator of coastwide fisheries databases, maintained contract services for states and

related agencies, and worked with fishermen on issues such as crab quality testing and habitat protection. The following are among the activities of the year:

- The value of external contracts administered by PSMFC increased 6% to \$21.4 million.
- A coordinated research program to assess **Marine Mammal Impacts** on Pacific coast salmonids began during 1998. The need for additional information was emphasized in the 1997 NOAA Technical Memorandum entitled "Investigation of Scientific Information on the Impacts of California Sea Lions and Pacific Harbor Seals on Salmonids and on the Coastal Ecosystems of Washington, Oregon, and California", and in subsequent discussions between NMFS and PSMFC on recommendations to Congress. Both of these were requirements of the 1994 amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Due in large measure to the efforts of PSMFC, Congress and NMFS made \$1.2 million available for research starting in 1998. Projects proposed under this funding will be used to survey the abundance of California sea lions and harbor seals, assess the levels of pinniped predation in selected river systems, and evaluate the levels of pinniped interactions with commercial and sport fisheries.
- The PSMFC **Information Management Services (IMS)** section is comprised of the following:
 - Pacific Fisheries Information Network (PacFIN)
 - Regional Mark Processing Center (RMPC)
 - PIT Tag Information System (PTAGIS)
 - StreamNet
 - Alaska Fisheries Information Network (AKFIN)
 - Fisheries Economics Database Project
 - PSMFC Computer Services Center (CSC)

Highlights of activities and accomplishments by each project or section are described separately.



Figure 1. A coordinated research program to evaluate the impacts of marine mammals on Pacific coast salmonids began in 1998.

- The two main development efforts for PacFIN in 1998 were development of the Washington, Oregon, California (W-O-C) centralized trawl logbook data tables and development of the W-O-C centralized biological data tables. The process of centralizing W-O-C trawl logbook data was started in January and by December it was nearing completion. The W-O-C biological data project was completed during the year. These biological data consist of port sampling and fish aging data, including weight, length, sex, maturity, and age data for each fish. During 1998 the PacFIN Office also processed 167 datafeeds from eight data sources and responded to 166 requests-for-information. There were 34,268 visits to PSMFC's PacFIN web site for an average of 2,855 visits per month.

In addition to these main efforts, smaller software development and enhancement, database expansion and improvement, and hardware procurement projects were completed. While all year designators in the PacFIN database are stored using four digits, staff reviewed the processing of 2-digit year and 4-digit year data input items. A few inconsistencies were found and rectified. The Quota Species Monitoring (QSM) subsystem was expanded to include data entry via a comma-delimited text file in addition to the existing interactive dialogue method. The State-vessel (SV) table and the SV input transaction specification were enhanced to include vessel owner's name and address, and a column to indicate whether the vessel is a charter boat. Data for vessel owner name and address and charter boat indicator were input by CDFG for 1982 thru 1998 and are now part of the SV table. Support for the NMFS/NWR's Sablefish Endorsement/3-tier project occurred during January and May. This support included software development/modifications and data retrievals. A few data quality issues were addressed during the year including: developing an algorithm to produce corrected gear codes, while retaining the original gear code; developing lists of suspect vessel identifiers for review by each data source; and additional validation of dates input by data sources. Additional reports were added to the PSMFC/PacFIN website, a few existing website reports were modified, and a subpage for exclusive use by data source agencies was established. At the request of our CDFG data source, species codes for all 18 years of CDFG fish-ticket entries were translated from their "internal" to "external" set of species codes. The data table containing information about each W-O-C county was re-worked so that it now relates to individual state port codes, which allows for more complete accumulations by county.

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- The **Regional Mark Processing Center (RMPC)** continues to provide regional services to all State, Federal, Tribal, and non-governmental agencies involved in marking anadromous salmonid fishes on the Pacific Coast, including Canada. These services include coastwide coordination of tagging and fin marking

programs, and maintenance of a regional database for releases and recoveries of coded wire tag (CWT) marked salmonids. The Mark Center serves as the single United States database to exchange CWT information with Canada for Pacific Salmon Treaty purposes.

CWT data can be accessed through PSMFC's Regional Mark Information System (RMIS) by either dial-up (tel: 503-650-5437; up to 28,000 bps) or via the Internet using either FTP (<ftp.psmfc.org>) or Telnet (<telnet.psmfc.org>). In addition, data users may use the worldwide web (<http://www.psmfc.org/rmpc/>) to select subsets of CWT data via queries, build reports from those queries, and electronically download the resultant reports.

The 1998 annual Mark Meeting again focused on the issue of mass marking hatchery fish using the adipose-only clip for identification in selective fisheries, electronic detection of tagged fish, and the potential impacts on the coastwide CWT system. This included a review of Washington's intent to mass mark hatchery chinook, possibly as soon 1999 depending on the availability of a prototype automated fish marking and tagging machine. Another focus was development of a formal charter for the Regional Mark Committee to define its role in dealing with mass marking issues that have political overtones. An ad hoc subcommittee was formed to finalize the document.

Mark Center staff assisted ODFW, WDFW, and USFWS respond to a Northwest Power Planning Council (NWPPC) request for an in-depth evaluation of the CWT tagging and recovery program funded by BPA in the Columbia Basin. At issue were BPA's 'fair share' for supporting CWT tagging and recovery programs, and the relevance of the CWT tagging and recovery programs in the Columbia Basin to meet stock identification needs of the NWPPC's Fish and Wildlife measures. Following the exhaustive review, BPA granted participating agency programs full 1999 funding.

The Pacific Salmon Commission's CWT data exchange format (Version 3.2) was revisited and finalized by the PSC Data Standards Committee in late March 1998. The Mark Center then began the extensive data management software retooling to handle the new data associated with mass marking, double index tagging and selective fisheries. Format Version 3.2 was fully implemented on RMIS in late summer, 1998. Following the finalization of Format 3.2, the Mark Center updated the CWT Data File Definitions, Specification, and Validation document to include the new fields and other changes. The revised report was widely distributed to CWT data users.

A number of enhancements to RMPC operations were either completed during 1998 or are now in progress. Much of that work has involved use of the Internet/World Wide Web to provide interactive discussion forums and access to the CWT database in the form of downloadable reports. With the encouragement of ADFG, CDFO and WDFW, the Mark Center completed development of a web-

based prototype database for an 'International Archive of Thermally Marked Otolith Images'. Agencies are now in the process of evaluating this prototype and will provide guidance for further development.

- The Columbia River **PIT Tag Information System (PTAGIS)** project saw over 940,000 juvenile salmonids marked with passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags for the 1998 out-migration through the Columbia and Snake river systems, compared to over 623,000 in 1997. This number is up from around 623,000 in 1997 and 430,000 during the 1996 out-migrations. In 1998, these fish generated over 4,873,000 interrogation records compared to 2,621,000 interrogation records in 1997, at the major dams on the Lower Snake and Columbia rivers. One fish can generate many interrogation records, depending upon how many interrogation monitors 'saw' the fish.

Work is nearing completion on a project to implement the new International Standards Organization (ISO) tag frequency in the Columbia River basin. The key implementation criterion was that the new system meet or exceed the performance of the existing (400kHz) system. With the participation of State and Tribal fish and wildlife agencies, Bonneville Power Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, the US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service and others, a successful second year of field tests of stationary transceivers was performed at the McNary and John Day dams. Based upon successful evaluation of the new stationary and portable transceivers using "off the shelf" ISO tags, we decided to proceed with the year 2000 transition from the current system to the new ISO-based system.



Figure 2. A technician injects a PIT tags into the abdomen of a Columbia River salmon smolt.

Work neared completion on the Windows '95-based PIT Tag Workstation program for use by all agencies that PIT-tag in the Columbia River basin. The software was used for the ISO field tests, as well as for production marking of steelhead parr during the summer and fall marking period.

Plans for 1999 include completion of a 'final disposition' report for PIT tagged fish to improve the granularity of fish tracking. In addition to providing the 'last monitor seen', we will provide a disposition record of "Transport" or "River" for each PIT tagged fish. Our project will also focus on work necessary to implement the new ISO system within the Columbia River Basin. The PTAGIS project will also begin to assume operations and maintenance responsibility for the "Separation by Code" (SbyC) system. This system has the capability to divert PIT tagged fish in various directions based upon distinct tag code. It was developed and has been operated by National Marine Fisheries Service since 1994. The transition of SbyC operations and maintenance responsibilities from NMFS to PSMFC is estimated to be complete by the spring of 2001.

- **StreamNet** is a cooperative venture of the region's fish and wildlife agencies and tribes to create, maintain, and distribute regionally consistent biological information for use in monitoring the effectiveness of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program and for a wide range of other fish management and restoration-related purposes. Participants include the fish and wildlife agencies from Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and, to a lesser extent, California. PSMFC serves as both project administrator and coordinator. Data development targets critical needs as identified in the Fish and Wildlife Program, Endangered Species Act-related anadromous and resident fish recovery plans including: the Oregon Plan, the Idaho Bull Trout Plan, and the developing State of Washington's salmon and steelhead plan.

The data developed and distributed include anadromous species production and survival trends, anadromous and resident species distribution and life history, aquatic habitat, dams and other facilities, and mitigation projects. Data are delivered via the Internet and custom products. The StreamNet Library maintains original source materials for data in the StreamNet system and provides a full range of library services to Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife scientists, managers, and policy makers. The StreamNet Library is the region's principal location for "gray" literature related to Columbia River Basin fisheries. StreamNet also provides technical assistance and services to a range of activities and projects. For example, StreamNet is currently managing data for the Council's Multi-Species Framework initiative, and manages the State of Oregon's Oregon Plan web site.

Principal achievements over the past year were: (1) the introduction of a new and greatly expanded Internet data query system, (2) completion of a regionally consistent electronic hydrographic data layer, and (3) significant new data including updates to historic anadromous salmonid production trends, life history data for anadromous salmonids, and distribution for resident salmonids. The StreamNet Internet site includes a state-of-the art data query system. The system provides users the opportunity to create "custom" queries that combine data related to specific geographic area, species, and metrics. User defined on-line

maps can also be generated. References are provided for all data in the StreamNet system. The address for the StreamNet home page is www.streamnet.org. With the completion of the 1:100,000 hydrography, the Pacific Northwest region now has a consistent and accurate electronic infrastructure for coding and displaying stream-related data. This hydrography will provide the foundation for future inter-agency cooperation in the development of aquatic data.

During the past year StreamNet has made major advances in extending its coverage to the entire Pacific Northwest Region. In the past, data development activities were principally supported by funding through the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program and therefore mainly targeted the Columbia Basin. With additional financial support from the National Marine Fisheries Services and the Environmental Protection Agency, StreamNet has been able to allocate resources to coastal Washington, Oregon, and Northern California. As a result, anadromous production and distribution data are now available region-wide. Northern California data development continues to lag behind the other states due to funding limitations and the short time that this effort has been in existence.

StreamNet maintains a long-term data development plan that is updated on a regular basis. Through this plan, StreamNet participants seek to identify emerging needs for data and to set in place data development activities that will fill these needs. One key influence on future data needs is the increased attention that is being given to ecological processes. This suggests the need for more information on aquatic habitat and population dynamics. StreamNet is responding by establishing working arrangements with agencies that collect field data to allow more consistent collection of these data as well as integration with the StreamNet data query system. System users are increasingly interested in monitoring the effectiveness of restoration efforts; StreamNet is responding by increasing its attention to the tracking of restoration efforts and to the development of key biological trends that can be used to measure biological response to restoration projects. With the increased emphasis on watershed planning, StreamNet has prepared and is implementing a strategy paper that identifies the ways that the project can help facilitate these initiatives. Among these strategies are (1) providing core data, (2) providing data development infrastructure (data exchange formats, data entry tools, stream hydrography, etc.), and (3) providing a means to display results via the StreamNet web site.

- The **Alaska Fisheries Information Network** (AKFIN) is a cooperative data program of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Fisheries Science Center, and PSMFC. AKFIN supports collection, entry, transfer, analysis and management of critical Alaska fishery information. During 1998, AKFIN supported programs at ADFG that: collect fish tickets, biological samples and logbooks; edit and enter the data; maintain and update the State of Alaska processor production database and fish

ticket system; produce age data for fish assessments; complete dockside catch sampling and skipper interviews to monitor in-season catch of Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) crab fisheries; and analyze/report on chinook salmon bycatch in groundfish trawl fisheries of the BSAI for the NPFMC. Program management changed with hire of a new Program Manager and addition of an Assistant Data Manager.

The AKFIN Steering Committee met quarterly to review and prioritize project tasks and goals. The AKFIN Technical Committee met throughout the last three-quarters of 1998 and focused on development of AKFIN core tables for species, gear, area, and product recovery rates. Two analyses were completed for the Steering committee. Analysis of the PacFIN programs resulted in summary of 1996 data to replicate agency data feeds and to replicate the PacFIN report for 1996 Alaska ground fish data. Comparison of the 1996 NMFS weekly production reports and ADFG fish ticket data for shore-side processors indicated harvest accounted by the two methods was not statistically different.

Administration of AKFIN systems included installation and upgrades of hardware, installation, configuration, and maintenance of software, and implementation of a UNIX file system structure, an Oracle environment and associated security systems on the AKFIN server. T-1 lines were installed between AKFIN, ADFG and NMFS-AKR servers and set up for anonymous FTP file transfers. AKFIN staff trained in Oracle, Oracle PL/SQL and in HTI oo1 software. An AKFIN Internet home page and a Power Point presentation explaining AKFIN goals and objectives, projects and accomplishments were completed.

Work continues on elements of the design of the AKFIN comprehensive database. Single-year test data sets from AKFIN member agencies were analyzed for data attributes and functional dependencies. Species, species aggregations, gear and gear aggregation data were analyzed by agency and a data model was developed to support recursive structure. Data structures were mapped, analyzed and reviewed with each agency. A naming convention program was completed to uniquely identify all agency fields, columns, tables, and databases for the comprehensive database. NMFS Blend data were received and analyzed.

Plans for 1999 include continued support of ADFG data collection and data management programs. Resolution of AKFIN access to ADFG and CFEC confidential data in 1999 is essential for AKFIN to meet its goal and objectives. Once prescribed data sets, support tables and documentation are received from agencies, AKFIN will complete Phase I of the AKFIN database. Subsequently the analysis and specification of the AKFIN comprehensive database (Phase II) can be completed. Design of Phase II can then continue with migration of data sets into the new database anticipated for the following year. AKFIN will begin compiling the Alaska portion of Fisheries of the United States for NMFS and a catch by vessel data set for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

- The **Fisheries Economics Data Program** is a cooperative data collection effort to address the needs of West Coast and Alaska fisheries managers and industry for economic data. This is done by first identifying existing and potential sources of economic information. Some of these data are currently available from scattered secondary sources, and for these we have established a web site to act as a central repository. Other kinds of information are less readily available and must be collected from various sources and made available as appropriate. This includes information such as state permit and registration files as well as marine fuel prices. Finally, this program will collect costs, earnings and employment information from harvesters and processors on the West Coast and in Alaska through annual surveys.

The primary focus of efforts during 1998 was on data collection. We collected some of the secondary data mentioned above and formulated a methodology for collecting marine fuel prices. Both the opening of the website and the collection of fuel data will occur in January 1999. In addition, development of the West Coast and Alaska costs, earnings and employment surveys was begun. We prepared the necessary OMB paperwork, and prepared draft surveys both for submission to OMB and for industry and steering committee review. Finally, we prepared a report for the Alaska Fisheries Science Center comparing their blend data with their weekly processor reports. The final draft of this report is still under review by NMFS.

- The accomplishments of the **Computer Services Center** during 1998 included:
 - Installation and configuration of a new Internet firewall.
 - Installation and configuration of a network monitoring system. We are now able to monitor all main office and other commission site systems of interest.
 - Purchase of a new presentation projector, a network analyzer, and a CD Rom burner.
 - PSMFC workstation upgrades to Microsoft Office 97.
 - Performing a variety of setup and upgrade procedures to Sun, Solaris, UNIX, and NT servers and workstations. Both hardware and software was upgraded on many computers, including memory, processors, disk space, and in some cases, entirely new computers.
 - Addition of another Technical Information Specialist, whose duties include design and maintenance of web sites that PSMFC hosts for both in-house projects and outside agencies.

Web sites that were created and implemented included:

- Alaska Fisheries Information Network (AKFIN) (www.psmfc.org/akfin);
- Economic Fisheries Information Network (EFIN) (www.psmfc.org/efin);
- PSMFC Intranet (for PSMFC staff use only—contains forms and other information);
- Columbia Basin Multi-Species Framework (www.nwframework.org);
- [Essential Fish Habitat \(EFH\)](http://www.psmfc.org/efh) (www.psmfc.org/efh);
- Technical Subcommittee of the Canada-U.S. Groundfish Committee (www.psmfc.org/tsc); and
- Committee of Age Reading Experts (CARE) (www.psmfc.org/care).

Web sites that were redesigned included:

- Pacific Fisheries Information Network (PacFIN) (www.psmfc.org/pacfin);
- StreamNet (www.streamnet.org);
- The Oregon Plan (www.oregon-plan.org);
- PSMFC web site (www.psmfc.org).

Web sites that were maintained included:

- Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) (www.pcouncil.org);
- For the Sake of the Salmon (www.4sos.org);
- Interorganizational Resource Information Coordinating Council (IRICC) (www.iricc.org);
- PIT Tag Information System (PTAGIS) (www.psmfc.org/pittag); and
- Habitat Education Information (www.psmfc.org/habitat).

Publications prepared included the Habitat Hotline and the PTAGIS Newsletter.

- The **F.I.S.H Habitat Education Program** began new erosion control education and estuarine restoration planning initiatives in 1998, while continuing some of its popular older programs. Erosion from small construction sites and roads can send large amounts of sediment into streams and wetlands, impacting coho and other fish. Such work is largely unregulated in Oregon. Working with grant assistance from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and in partnership with a lake protection district, the Program organized and conducted well-received erosion control workshops involving both classroom and field work and provided take home spec information to builders, excavators, and state and county road crews. These workshops will continue in a few locations on the coast in the next year.

Estuaries are essential habitat for salmon, crab, English sole, herring, shad, starry flounder and important habitat for lingcod and Pacific tomcod. Despite their importance to fisheries, much estuarine habitat was diked, filled, tide-gated or otherwise altered throughout the Pacific Northwest. Losses of 60-70% of estuarine marshes often had occurred by the 1970's. Now there is much interest in finding ways to work with landowners to restore these areas. This Program is

working to assess and prioritize areas for restoration within two major estuaries on Oregon's central coast. Such work will not only set the stage for watershed group project efforts, but can be used as a model for prioritization and planning work throughout the region.

On-going program efforts in 1998 included the popular Flying for Fish Habitat Program, in which fishermen, policy makers, politicians, and landowners are oriented to watershed issues and problems affecting salmon and then taken for a low-altitude plane flight over their watershed, with narrated interpretation of what is being seen. As participants travel from the ocean to the headwaters the range and connectivity of issues and solutions can be visually and powerfully understood. Nine flights were completed in 1998 in the watersheds of the Cedar, Green, and Snoqualmie, Snohomish, and Stillaguamish watersheds of Washington State.

Fishermen and boater outreach about oil spill prevention, reporting, and best management practices to avoid pollution during boat repair and maintenance also continued throughout the region in 1998. This outreach depends on the combined efforts of this Program and the Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team, a group it facilitates. This team, which involves public and private groups from California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia combines efforts to share ideas and develop and distribute common educational materials. Other ongoing work efforts involve local watershed council assistance and educational outreach regarding habitat protection and pollution control at public salmon festivals and commercial and sport fishing expositions.

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- PSMFC's **Habitat Hotline** is a newsletter that informs fishermen and fisheries conservationists, conservation groups, state and federal agencies, and PSMFC Commissioners and advisors about important habitat issues in the five PSMFC member states. Information on national legislation and rule-makings is also included. It is hoped that as habitat issues arise, commercial and recreational fishermen, as well as fish conservationists, will use the Habitat Hotline to inform others about issues of regional importance. In 1998, six issues of the Habitat Hotline were printed including a reader's survey.

A major issue covered in 1998 was the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Hotline informed its readership, now at about 1400, of the national implementation of EFH by the National Marine Fisheries Service, as well as regional EFH action by the Pacific Fishery Management Council and North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

- The **Recreational Fisheries Information Network (RecFIN)** is a cooperative effort between the state fishery agencies in Washington, Oregon, and California, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), and National Marine

Fisheries Service (NMFS). The four goals of RecFIN are to: (1) Develop and implement a State/Federal cooperative program for a coastwide marine recreational fisheries data system; (2) Coordinate collection, management, and dissemination of Pacific coast marine recreational fishery data; (3) Provide the data in a central location on a timely basis in the format needed to support state and federal work on Pacific marine recreational fisheries; and (4) Reduce and avoid duplication of data collection efforts between RecFIN members.

The RecFIN database is now fully operational on the PSMFC web site at: www.psmfc.org/recfin. Here the public may access catch and effort data, angler demographic and economic data, and biological data for Pacific coast marine recreational fisheries. The database contains recreational fishery data for the years 1980-89 and 1993- to date. Lack of funds precluded sampling during the 1990-1992 period. The primary source of data in the RecFIN database comes from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) funded nationwide by NMFS. This survey is continuous for the entire 12 months of the year and samples in four basic fishing modes: man-made structures (piers, jetties, docks etc.), beaches and banks, private and rental boats, and party and charter boats. On the Pacific coast about 36,000 anglers are interviewed each year at fishing sites to weigh, measure, and identify the fish caught to species. Angler data of various types are also collected. Each year about 95,000 fish are counted, about 72,000 are measured, and 70,000 are weighed. The survey is spread out over about 800 fishing sites coastwide in the three states. Of these sites, about 57% are in California, 10% in Oregon and 33% in Washington. This extensive coastwide survey adds about 157,000 total data records to the database each year with an average of about 80 data elements per interview.

Each of the states has some direct recreational sampling programs. These have varied from year to year, but generally entail at least the following: Washington ocean boat surveys on the coast from late April through late September; Oregon ocean boat surveys from May through August; and a California ocean boat salmon sampling program. The MRFSS does not duplicate these sampling efforts by the states. Instead, it defers to the state sampling for the appropriate times or modes of fishing and concentrates its sampling in the remaining modes/time periods. State data are then incorporated into the RecFIN database.

During 1998 the RecFIN database was utilized more than in the past by the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Groundfish Management Team (GMT). With declining groundfish stocks, new management processes are being examined and recreational catch and effort data has received increased scrutiny. The RecFIN Programmer/Analyst now assists the GMT in analysis of RecFIN data. Specific menus were added to the RecFIN web page to sort and summarize catch and effort data important to the groundfish managers. A special economic survey was added to the MRFSS during 1998. Anglers were interviewed in the field regarding their trip expenditures for the day and were asked to provide their name and phone number so that additional data can be collected in a follow-up

telephone interview after their trip. This telephone survey also collected management option analysis data from the angler's perspective. These data will be analyzed in an economic model by NMFS during 1999 and early 2000.

- The **Northern Pikeminnow Predator Control Program** was again administered by PSMFC in 1998. The name of this ongoing program changed after the American Fisheries Society changed the scientific name of the Northern squawfish (*Ptychocheilus oregonensis*) to Northern Pikeminnow. The program is a joint effort between the fishery agencies of the states of Washington and Oregon, the Columbia River treaty tribes, the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) and the PSMFC. Washington ran the sport-reward registration/creel check stations throughout the river and handled all fish checked in to the program. Oregon provided fish tagging services, population studies, food habit and reproductive studies, as well as exploitation rate estimates. PSMFC contracted with the CBFWA for technical administration of the program. PSMFC provided fiscal and contractual oversight for all segments of the Program and processed all reward vouchers for the sport-reward anglers. CRITFC and the treaty tribes conducted angling at the dams and site specific removals by means of gillnets at tributary mouths to aid salmonid downstream migrant survival.



Figure 3. Anglers participating in the Northern Pikeminnow Predator Control Program can register their catch at any of several mobile registration stations.

In 1998, 107,664 fish were harvested in the sport-reward fishery for rewards totaling \$432,760. An additional 206 tagged fish were returned for tag reward payments of \$10,300. Tournament winnings (including drawings) added \$23,350 in prize money. A total of registered 1,756 anglers caught one or more fish during the May 4, 1998 through October 11, 1998 season. One hundred ninety-eight anglers caught 100 or more fish.

A report evaluating the program during the last five years was also published in 1998. It is available from the Bonneville Power Administration and can be ordered on their web site (www.bpa.gov).

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1998 PUBLICATIONS

Habitat Hotline (published periodically) is a bulletin board of current events dealing with water quality, wetlands development, logging, and other habitat issues that affect fisheries.

1998 PIT Tag Specification Document (March 1998) ensures interagency continuity of PIT-tag data and facilitates data entry to and retrieval from the Columbia River Basin PIT-Tag Information System (PTAGIS).

CWT Data File Definition, Specification, and Validation: Version 3.2 (June 1998) is the complete reference for CWT data exchange involving the PSMFC Regional Mark Processing Center.

50th Annual Report of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for the Year 1997 (September 1998) contains a summary of PSMFC activities, funding, and expenditures, and reviews selected Pacific Coast fisheries statistics for 1997.

IN MEMORIA – CHARLES ‘BUZZ’ PLATT



In September 1998, California and PSMFC lost a colleague and a friend in Buzz Platt. Buzz was an active participant in fisheries issues for many years, a leader within the commercial fishing industry, and a representative for the small boat commercial fishermen of central California.

A native of Brooklyn, Buzz had been a physical education instructor and coach at Pomona College before starting commercial fishing in 1970. He fished for salmon, albacore, crab, and rockfish out of Fort Bragg. He was president of the Salmon Trollers Marketing Association, a California advisor to PSMFC since the mid-1980's, and the open access representative to the Groundfish Advisory Panel of the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Although a man of strong convictions, Buzz was best known for his calm and reasonableness; his presence commanded quiet attention. His thoughtful consideration yielded concise analysis; his common sense and experience gave new perspectives to regulatory debates; and his deep respect for fishing as a way of life

compelled him to represent fishermen. He was actively involved with legislative issues that affected fishermen's abilities to make a living, including salmon legislation, crab legislation, and most recently live fish legislation.

He leaves behind an adoring family, a loving wife Printha, and a myriad of friends. Buzz will be missed but he will not be forgotten.

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ANNUAL MEETING EVENTS

SUMMARY

The 1998 PSMFC Annual Meeting was held October 10-13 in Sun Valley, Idaho with State Senator Bruce Sweeney as chair. The agenda included reviews of federal legislation and appropriations, and panel discussions exploring marine sanctuaries and reserves, and future trends in fisheries and fisheries management. Ed Bowles of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game provided Idaho's perspective of management of the Columbia River. William Hogarth of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) described West Coast research needs, while Bill Peterson of NMFS described the changing productivity of ocean systems. Joe Scordino of NMFS provided an update on marine mammal issues, including the pending NMFS-PSMFC recommendations to Congress on management of marine mammal interactions with salmonids. Ginny Goblirsch of Oregon State University Sea Grant updated the Commission on the Fisherman's Family Health initiative. Luncheon speaker Tom Stewart and dinner speaker Ralph Harris provided insights into Idaho salmon restoration and Sun Valley history.

BUSINESS MEETING

The following issues were addressed at the annual business meeting on October 13, 1998:

1. The Commission unanimously approved the annual budget as proposed.
2. Marine Reserves and Sanctuaries: The Commission was asked whether PSMFC should promote reserves as an approach to rebuild marine fish stocks, work to secure research funding, or monitor the issue as it develops within the federal fishery management council (PFMC and NPFMC) arenas. Staff was directed to work with states to inventory existing reserves including assessments, and identify enforcement concerns, with a view toward facilitating development of West Coast definitions and related issues.
3. Marine Mammal Reauthorization Issues:

- a. Commission staff will use the names suggested by the advisors to form a Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) reauthorization working committee.
 - b. The working committee should meet to consider the reauthorization issues identified by the states and decide on a course of action.
 - c. PSMFC continues to support the recommendations of the NMFS draft impact report (Vote: 5-0).
 - d. Staff was directed to continue the development of marine mammal deterrent devices, and to encourage universities or other entities to do the same (Vote: 5-0).
 - e. PFMC should bring together the appropriate state and tribal staff for the purpose of determining the OSP for harbor seals (Vote: 5-0).
4. Management of West Coast Rockfish: The Pacific Marine Conservation Council, which is a non-profit organization founded in 1997, was in the process of finalizing a West Coast Rockfish Report that included priorities for management of West Coast Rockfish. The Commission decided to take no action a proposal to support those priorities, and to continue to work toward bringing together additional information and funding on nearshore rockfish (Vote: 5-0).
 5. Observer Program: PSMFC supports the Regional Fishery Management Council Chairmen's July 15, 1998 position on the observer program (Vote: 5-0). That position statement acknowledges the importance of effective observer programs for sustainable fisheries management, and listed important objectives of these programs. Staff was directed to lobby for funding in the NMFS budget.
 6. Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS): The Commission was asked whether PSMFC should support the development of technology and policies/standards and the use of VMS for the West Coast and Alaska. Commissioners decided to take no action at this time.
 7. Fisheries Information Systems/Vessel Registration System: PSMFC supports continued work with NMFS to develop these systems, with no additional administrative or cost burdens on commercial fishermen (Vote: 5-0).
 8. Dungeness Crab Management: Legislation to extend and expand current interim authority for state jurisdiction over Dungeness crab had passed the House at the time of the 1998 Annual meeting. The Commission supports federal legislation to extend and expand the current interim authority for state jurisdiction over Dungeness crab with a sunset date that is far into the future (Vote: 5-0). PSMFC believes that the Dungeness crab fishery should be a model, and that similar authority should apply to all species in federal waters that are not subject to a FMP.
 9. Exotic Species: The introduction of exotic plant and animal species has caused many problems throughout the United States. It appears there will be increased federal and state interest in this issue, and PSMFC is in a position to help coordinate some of the activities generated by the new funds. Commissioners directed staff to seek to administer the Coastal Committee of the Western Regional Panel established under the National Invasive Plant Act (Vote: 5-0). Alaska expressed an interest in this issue as it relates to Atlantic salmon that have escaped from aquaculture farms on the Pacific coast.

10. Artificial Reefs: PSMFC supports the amendments to the National Artificial Reef Plan of 1985 proposed in June 1998 by the Joint Artificial Reef Technical Committee of the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions (Vote: 4-1). These amendments address issues like the used of inappropriate materials and reef deployments that are in or are adjacent to waters that are not covered by an approved state-specific artificial reef plan.
11. Teaming with Wildlife: The Commission supports the federal legislation proposed by a bipartisan group of House Members (Young, Dingell, John, and Tauzin) that would fund "Teaming With Wildlife" through a dedicated permanent fund based on outer Continental Shelf oil and gas revenues (Vote: 3-2).
12. Commission Objectives and Actions: The Commission approved the addition of the following action items to the PSMFC Goals and Objectives (Vote: 5-0).

Objective VII - Provide active leadership in recognizing and resolving problems that impact the sport and commercial fishing industries.

- D. Educate the public, fishermen, and processors of marine fishery issues, current and future.
- E. Use the results of the National Academy of Sciences study with applicability to West Coast issues as part of the MSFCMA reauthorization.

Objective VIII - Conduct an annual review of Commission goals and objectives.

- A. Consider input received from the Commission's annual and instate meetings.
- B. Conduct an annual strategic planning meeting.

The Commission recommended that initial review of goals and objectives should be conducted during the spring instate planning meetings.

1. Snake River Salmon and Steelhead Recovery: Commissioners endorsed the following position statement regarding Snake River salmon and steelhead and the 1999 Decision Point:

The Commission recognizes the imperilment and importance of Snake River salmon and steelhead, and the importance of the 1999 Decision Point in setting a course for recovery.

The Commission will work collectively to help ensure the 1999 Decision Point is not deferred and that the decision is made with the best available scientific, social, and economic information. Recovery actions must ensure a high probability of providing 2-6% smolt-to-adult survival for inriver migrants of wild Snake River salmon and steelhead stocks.

The Commission recognizes that current information indicates the natural river option is currently the best biological choice for recovery. The Commission supports continued work to clarify the biological component of the 1999 Decision

Point to ensure the best possible resolution by the end of 1999.

The Commission recognizes that biology is only one component of a long-term recovery decision. Social and economic factors are also important and determine whether the decision will be politically sustainable. The Commission encourages decision-makers to shift the focus of the debate to pivotal social and economic factors. (Vote 3-2)

2. Klamath River Salmon Escapement Monitoring: Commissioners directed staff to lobby for an earmark of \$1.5 million in NMFS or Bureau of Reclamation program funds for escapement studies and stock assessment of Klamath River fall chinook. Ocean fisheries from Monterey to Cape Falcon are managed based on this stock, and future funding for this work is uncertain (Vote: 5-0).
3. Hooking Mortality Estimates: The Commission acknowledges that encounter and mortality rates are key components of assessing the impacts of single-salmon species fisheries on non-retention species, and of the impact of selective fisheries for mass-marked hatchery salmon on wild salmon stocks. The Commission supports efforts to improve hooking mortality estimates where data are not available or are insufficient (Vote 4-0-1).
4. Funding for Salmon Recovery: The Presidential FY2000 budget may include funding for coastwide salmon recovery. The Commission directs its lobbyist to strongly support this funding request (Vote: 5-0)
5. Funding for Groundfish Research: The federal FY1999 budget provides level funding for groundfish research despite an increase in the President's budget request. The Commission supports an increase in groundfish research funding in FY2000 (Vote 5-0).
6. Recognition of Buzz Platt: Commissioners directed staff to develop an appropriate recognition for the late Buzz Platt, a long-time California PSMFC Advisor.

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1999 ANNUAL MEETING

The 52nd Annual Meeting of PSMFC will be hosted by the state of Washington. The meeting has been scheduled for August 28 – September 1 in Blaine.

ANNUAL PSMFC AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION TO PACIFIC COAST FISHERIES

IDAHO STEELHEAD AND SALMON UNLIMITED



Figure 4. Mitch Sanchotena (left), Executive Director for ISSU, accepted the award from PSMFC Chairman and Idaho State Senator Bruce Sweeney.

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